

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CU-04

DRC-01 AGR-20 EB-11 /190 W
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P R 290840Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3849

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2885

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 28 SADAT SPEECH

REF: CAIRO 2875; CAIRO 2193

SUMMARY: SADAT IN SEPTEMBER 28 SPEECH PRAISED NASSER AND
NASSERISM; DEFINED EGYPT'S OBJECTIVES IN CONVENTIONAL TERMS;
WARNED US TO TAKE OFF ITS "ZIONIST GLASSES," BUT DID NOT HARSHLY
CRITICIZE US POLICY; ANNOUNCED THAT CHARGES AGAINST STUDENTS
AND OTHERS AWAITING TRIAL WOULD BE DISMISSED; AND REINSTATED
WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM ASU. HIS OMISSION OF
ANY MENTION OF EGYPTIAN/SOVIET RELATIONS, IS ALSO
SIGNIFICANT. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN RELATIVELY SHORT (53-MINUTE) ADDRESS TO JOINTLY

ASSEMBLED ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND TOP LEVELS OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF NASSER'S DEATH, SADAT INDICATED NO RADICAL DEPARTURES FROM CURRENT EGYPTIAN POLICY. FIRST PART OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO PRAISE OF NASSER AND NASSERIST REVOLUTION. SADAT NOTED DANGERS WHICH EGYPT HAD PASSED THROUGH, INCLUDING JUNE WAR, CHANGES IN WORLD POWER BALANCE, STATE OF NO WAR NO PEACE, PERIOD OF RAPIDLY INCREASING COMMODITY PRICES, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE LAUNCHED BY EGYPT'S ENEMIES. SADAT DEFINED EGYPT'S OBJECTIVES AS:

(A) LIBERATION OF LAND (THE TRADITIONAL WORDS "EVERY INCH" WERE NOT INCLUDED. AT A LATER POINT, SADAT STATED THAT BASIC ISSUE ALSO INCLUDED PALESTINE QUESTION);

(B) CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT;

(C) CONTINUED SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION;

(D) DEEPENED DEMOCRATIC PROCESS;

(E) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITY WITH LIBYA ON "SAFEST AND BEST BASES;"

(F) PROVIDING WIDEST POSSIBLE BASE FOR UNIFIED ARAB ACTION; AND

(G) INTERNATIONAL ACTION BENEFITING FROM NEW INTERNATIONAL POWER BALANCE.

2. WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION, SADAT TURNED TO US. HE SAID USE OF VETO BY US IN UNSC DEBATE WAS A "GLORIOUS VICTORY" FOR EGYPT SINCE IT DEFINED (US) POSITION. SADAT THEN STATED HE WAS SURPRISED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S "LAST MEETING (PRESUMABLY AT UN) DURING WHICH SECSTATE SAID HE WANTED TO HEAR EGYPTIANS' VIEWPOINT. SADAT SAID "MR. KISSINGER KNOWS OUR VIEWPOINT PERFECTLY WELL AND IN DETAIL;" BUT US STILL FALLS UNDER ZIONIST PRESSURE AND WEARS ZIONIST EYEGLASSES. SADAT SAID THAT IN PAST US HAD ASKED TO ACTIVATE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION BY EGYPT'S REOPENING

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OF SUEZ CANAL. EGYPT'S REPLY WAS THAT THIS WAS A TRAP, AND THAT MAIN QUESTION WAS OF LIBERATION OF LAND, AGGRESSION, PALESTINE AND USURPED RIGHTS. HE REITERATED THAT ALL THIS WAS PERFECTLY CLEAR TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. SADAT SAID US PROBLEM WAS "THE QUESTION OF KEEPING OUR LANDS FOR BARGAINING." HE ADDED THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT BARGAIN WITH US OVER THE LAND. SADAT CONCLUDED THESE POINTS BY STATING THAT HE HOPED THERE WAS NO AMBIGUITY REGARDING EGYPTIAN

POSITION, AND THAT "HONEYED WORDS" (OF US) WOULD NOT LEAD TO "FREEZING" OF EGYPTIAN CAUSE.

3. SADAT REFERRED TO PAST "CAMPAIGNS OF DOUBTS" BY EGYPT'S ENEMIES. HE SAID THAT, DESPITE TALK OF EGYPT'S DEPARTING FROM SOCIALISM, NATIONAL CHARTER WILL NOT BE REVISED; BUT HE ADDED THAT ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION DOES NOT CONTRADICT SOCIALISM.

4. SADAT THEN ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD ASK FOR DISMISSAL OF CHARGES AGAINST "YOUNG PEOPLE." MOREOVER, HE WOULD REINSTATE JOURNALISTS DISMISSED FROM ASU EARLIER THIS YEAR. SADAT SAID HIS INTENT WAS NOT TO PUNISH, BUT TO WARN. THE PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD, HE SAID: THERE MUST BE NO ISOLATION FROM THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR CAUSE.

5. COMMENT: SPEECH CONTAINED FEW SURPRISES AND INDICATED NO NEW DEPARTURES IN EGYPTIAN POLICY, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC. INTERNALLY, SADAT'S REINSTATEMENT OF PURGED JOURNALISTS WENT FURTHER THAN WAS EXPECTED, ALTHOUGH HIS WARNING AGAINST FURTHER DEVIATION WAS QUITE CLEAR. DISMISSAL OF CHARGES AGAINST STUDENTS IS CULMINATION OF PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN STUDENT LEADERS AND VARIOUS ORGANS OF GOE, AND REFLECTS FACT THAT GOE IS PREPARED TO MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO REOPEN UNIVERSITIES ON SCHEDULE. ECONOMICALLY, SPEECH INDICATES INTENSE CONCERN OF GOE WITH PRICE INCREASE OF FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER COMMODITIES AND ADMITS THAT GOE DOES NOT HAVE THIS MATTER UNDER CONTROL. SADAT'S INABILITY TO ANNOUNCE DECISION ON SUMED REFLECTS FACT THAT INTENSE BARGAINING SESSIONS BETWEEN GOE ON ONE HAND, AND EUROPEAN AND US COMPETITORS FOR PROJECT ON OTHER, DRAGGED ON INCONCLUSIVELY THROUGH MID-AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 28.
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6. REGARDING FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF SPEECH, SADAT CHOSE NOT TO LAUNCH INTO USUAL HEATED DENUNCIATIONS OF US POLICY IN ME. (CAIRO 2143, REPORTING ON SADAT'S REMARKS OF JULY 23, NOTES HIS LAST VITRIOLIC ATTACK ON US POLICY.) INSTEAD HE RESTATED BASIC EGYPTIAN POSITION, THAT LAND WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE AND THAT PALESTINIAN QUESTION HAD TO BE CONSIDERED. HE THEN
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